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there they range themselves, a mighty bulwark around the Heaven-directed vessel. Yes, the everlasting God himself stretches out the arm of his mercy and his power, in substantial manifestation, and gathers the meek company of his worshippers as in the hollow of his hand."

8. — *Observations on the Typhoid Fever of New England. Read at the Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society, May 29th, 1839.* By ENOCH HALE, M. D., Attending Physician to the Massachusetts General Hospital. Boston : Whipple & Damrell. 1839. 8vo. pp. 77.

THE nature of diseases, involving the question of their identity or diversity, was formerly considered as depending on their symptoms, or the external signs which they exhibit, and which are cognizable by our senses. But the modern habits of investigating disease have furnished an ulterior ground for the discrimination of morbid affections, founded not so much upon the symptoms, as upon the anatomical changes which take place in important organs of the body, and of which changes the symptoms are merely consequences.

The anatomical character of many diseases is well established and undoubted. Thus pleurisy is an inflammation of the membrane which lines the chest, and phthisis is a tuberculous disease of the lungs. But there are other diseases, the precise structural changes accompanying which, are, at the present day, unknown.

The continued fevers, especially those of temperate climates, have been regarded as obscure in their anatomical character, and have afforded fertile themes of discussion and controversy. From the circumstance of their pervading every part of the body, and affecting all its functions, they have been considered as dependent on no particular lesion, or morbid change, of any part or organ, and they have, therefore, been denominated *idiopathic* fevers by the English, and *fièvres essentielles* by the French.

For some time past, the patient and accurate researches of the French pathologists have been bringing this question very near to its point of settlement. And, after the successive approximations of various observers, it has been determined by the observations of the indefatigable Louis, that the common continued fever of Paris depends on, or rather is connected with, certain changes, in the elliptical patches of the *ilium*, commonly called *Peyer's glands* ; and that these changes are also accompanied with a morbid alteration of the corresponding

mesenteric glands, and, likewise, in most cases by a change in the size and consistence of the spleen.

Soon after this discovery became known in this country, it was found, that the continued fevers, in and about Boston, exhibited the precise characters which had been pointed out by Louis ; and similar observations were made, to a certain extent, in Philadelphia and in Great Britain, and elsewhere. So that the anatomical character of our most common continued fever, was considered, for a time, as definitively settled.

But at length it was observed, in some parts of Great Britain and Ireland, that patients died of continued fever, in whom no morbid change whatever could be detected in the organs which have been alluded to ; so that the faith of medical men began to be shaken in the infallibility of the criteria laid down by the great French pathologist. The mystery was not solved, until it was found, by more extensive observation, that the symptoms, which occurred in the cases where Peyer's glands were affected, were different from those which existed in the cases where these glands were not affected. The final result has been the admission of the existence of two distinct diseases, one of which, called *typhus*, is a contagious fever, occurring in the British islands, and observed also in Philadelphia, and which is especially prone to affect dense masses of population, as in prisons, ships, and crowded habitations of the poor ; the other, called *typhoid fever*, which is the common fever of Paris and of New England, appearing also in various other parts of the United States and of England, and which is, for the most part, sporadic and non-contagious.

Dr. Hale's Discourse is an able and intelligent exposition of the pathology of the Typhoid fever of New England, as exhibited in its physical signs and anatomical appearances. Besides results derived from his private practice, he has given the analysis of one hundred and ninety-seven cases, that have occurred, within the last six years, in the Massachusetts General Hospital, of which one hundred and seventy-five terminated in recovery. In addition to his lucid and instructive account of typhoid fever, he has bestowed a brief notice on the recent works which relate to the fevers of Great Britain, and has furnished an account of typhus, founded on the successive observations of Doctors Lombard, Staberoh, West, Stokes, &c. in Europe, and of Doctor Gerhard in this country.

In respect to the treatment of typhoid fever, Dr. Hale's authority is added to the growing mass of testimony in favor of the mild and expectant plan, over that which has consisted in violent and fruitless efforts to force the disease to a speedy termination.